

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 200280

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT ATHENS 6783 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ANKARA NICOSIA
7 AUG 78 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6783

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PPDC, MARR, MASS, GR, US
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS AUGUST 7

REF: STATE 197784 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. I CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS THIS MORNING, AUGUST 7, TO DELIVER THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER. I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY GEORGE BARBIS. THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE LETTER WHILE REITERATING HIS REQUEST THAT THE FINAL LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE CONTAIN THE THREE POINTS HE HAD MENTIONED IN HIS LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT, PARTICULARLY CONCERNING MAINTENANCE OF THE MILITARY BALANCE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 200280

KARAMANLIS SAID THIS WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO ALLAY THE CONCERNS OF THE GREEK PEOPLE ABOUT THEIR SECURITY AND TO INSURE PEACE IN THE AREA. END SUMMARY.

2.I OPENED OUR MEETING BY HANDING THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER. HE READ IT CAREFULLY TWICE FOLLOWING WHICH I CONVEYED THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL GREETINGS AND APPRECIATION

FOR THE STATESMANLIKE WAY IN WHICH KARAMANLIS HAD HANDLED WHAT WAS ADMITTEDLY AN UNWELCOME DEVELOPMENT FROM THE GREEK POINT OF VIEW. I TOLD HIM THE PRESIDENT WAS COMMITTED TO AN ACTIVE ROLE FOR THE USG IN SEEKING AN EARLY SETTLEMENT OF PROBLEMS IN THE AREA AND THAT WE WANTED TO WORK WITH KARAMANLIS IN ACHIEVING COMMON OBJECTIVES.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND THE GOODWILL IT BEARS TOWARDS GREECE. AS THE PRESIDENT KNEW, HE WENT ON, HE DIFFERED WITH HIM ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION AND HOPED IN THIS RESPECT THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS RIGHT AND HE, KARAMANLIS, WRONG. IN REITERATING HIS KNOWN VIEWS REGARDING GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, KARAMANLIS SAID THE GOG PERSISTED IN ITS OPPOSITION TO LIFTING THE EMBARGO NOT OUT OF HOSTILITY TOWARDS TURKEY, BUT BECAUSE HE WAS CONVINCED THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WILL LEAD TO A MORE INTRANSIGENT AND INTRACTABLE TURKEY WHICH WILL AGGRAVATE EFFORTS AT REACHING SOLUTIONS TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND THE AEGEAN ISSUES SEPARATING GREECE AND TURKEY. BECAUSE OF DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS AND THE ATTITUDE ADOPTED BY ANKARA, THE GREEK PEOPLE FELT THREATENED BY TURKEY AND KARAMANLIS SHARED THEIR CONCERN. THE MAINTENANCE OF THE MILITARY BALANCE WAS, THEREFORE, VITAL IN ORDER TO PROTECT GREECE'S INTERESTS AND ALSO TO PRESERVE PEACE IN THE AREA SINCE TURKISH ADVENTURISM COULD NOT BE EXCLUDED IF THE BALANCE IS UPSET TO GREECE'S DETRIMENT. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 200280

4. KARAMANLIS SAID HE APPRECIATED THE REITERATION IN THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER OF US OPPOSITION TO THE USE OF FORCE TO RESOLVE DISPUTES IN THE AEGEAN. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE REFERENCE TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE MILITARY BALANCE IN THE BYRD AMENDMENT BE INCLUDED IN THE TEXT WHICH EMERGES FROM THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT I CONVEY THIS REQUEST TO THE PRESIDENT.

5. I ASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER THAT HIS CONCERNS WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. I POINTED OUT THE PRESIDENT HAD SAID IN HIS LETTER THAT THE BYRD AMENDMENT WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE POINTS MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT THE INCORPORATION OF SIMILAR LANGUAGE IN THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT. MEANWHILE, I ADDED, I UNDERSTOOD THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER EXPECTED TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS THIS WEEK TO THAT THERE WOULD BE CONTACT IN WASHINGTON DURING THE PERIOD THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE WAS CONSIDERING THE MATTER.

6. I THEN REAFFIRMED THAT THE USG WILL TAKE AN INCREASINGLY ACTIVE ROLE IN THE MONTHS AHEAD WITH RESPECT TO CYPRUS AND THAT WE WOULD WELCOME ANY VIEWS IN THIS RESPECT WHICH THE

PRIME MINISTER MAY CARE TO GIVE US. I ALSO INVITED ANY THOUGHTS HE MIGHT HAVE ON HOW WE COULD BROADEN AND DEEPEN OUR LIBLATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND IN PARTICULAR IN THE NON-MILITARY FIELD. THE PRIME MINISTER RESPONDED IT IS ALSO HIS DESIRE TO ENHANCE RELATONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND SAID HE HAD BEEN ENDEAVORING TO ACHIEVE THIS DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS. HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT IF WE TAKE THE RIGHT STEPS WE CAN GET OVER THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD IN OUR RELATIONS. IN TIS HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER, HE CONCLUDED.

7. IN A SUBSEQUENT CALL FROM AMBASSADOR MOLYVIATIS I AGREED THAT THE GOG COULD SAY PUBLICLY THAT I HAD CONVEYED A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER IN RESPONSE TO AN EARLIER LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER, ADDING ON BACKGROUND THAT THE PRESIDENT EXTENDED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 200280

SSURANCES THAT GREEK CONCERNS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE FORMULATION OF U.S. POLICIES FOR THE REGION.

8. COMMENT IN SEPTTEL.
MCCLOSKEY

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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